

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1177016

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year
Ended 31 March 2025
for
Devizes Assize Court Trust

Devizes Assize Court Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Devizes Assize Court Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT) was formed in 2018 following an initiative by the Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust Ltd, Wiltshire Council, and the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (WANHS). The principle aim of the Trust is to save the former Assize Court in Devizes and provide it with a new public use and a long-term sustainable future.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1177016

Principal address

1st Floor The Syms Building
Bumpers Way
Bumpers Farm
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN14 6LH

Trustees

Mr Peter Troughton (Chair)
Mr. Robert Hunt-Grubbe (Vice-Chair) (Deceased 15/08/25)
Councillor Mrs. Laura Mayes
Mr. Nicholas Elliott
Mr. Martin Nye
David Bedingfeld Scott
Mr. Stuart Wheeler
Mr. David Morrison (Resigned 21/02/2025)
Mrs. Laura McNicholas
Ms. Lucy Maxwell-Scott
Dr. Martin Clarke
Caroline Margaret Kay (Appointed 13/12/2024)

Officers for the year were:

Mrs. Tanya Williams - Treasurer
Mr. Colin Johns - Architect
Mr. David Dawson - Museum Adviser

No remuneration was paid during the year to any of the members.

Independent examiner

Pillow May Ltd
The Dutch Barn
Bremhill Grove Farm
East Tytherton
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 4LX

Solicitors

Goughs
2 Fore Street
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8H

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes a charitable incorporated organisation.

The charitable incorporated organisation company number is CE013153.

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Appointment of trustees

Any person who is willing to act as a Trustee, and who would not be disqualified from acting, may be appointed to be a Trustee by a decision of the Trustees or a Member Organisation serving notice of his or her appointment in writing. Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust and Wiltshire Council shall each be able to appoint up to two Member Trustees and Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society shall be able to appoint one Member Trustee. The Trustees shall aim to have at least two Co-opted Trustees in office at any time, appointed by a decision of the Trustees.

The Trustees will make available to each new Trustee, on or before his or her first appointment; a copy of the constitution and any amendments made to it and a copy of the Charity's latest trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are for the benefit of the public:

- 1) to preserve property and buildings of historic or architectural interest or importance, in particular (but not limited to) in the area of Wiltshire;
- 2) to advance the education of the public in the arts, culture and history, in particular through the maintenance of a museum; and
- 3) to further such exclusively charitable objects according to the laws of England and Wales as the Trustees in their absolute discretion from time to time determine.

Review of activities

As in preceding years, during the year 2024-25 the Trust has undertaken repair and other works to the derelict former Assize Court building, so that it is wind and weathertight, and is kept in a state to enable works of redevelopment to be carried out.

In addition, during the year the Trust took steps to protect its legal rights, by agreeing an easement with Wadworth Brewery over land to the east of the Site and registering possessory title to a small plot of land to the west of the site.

During the course of the year, WANHS (Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society) and the Trust continued their work together to progress plans on the renovation, and development of the Assize Court to provide a new location for an expanded and enhanced Wiltshire Museum ("the Project").

There were four Trustees meetings held during 2024-25. Additionally, the Project Board, established to oversee the Development Phase of the Project met periodically. The work included meeting and liaising with the National Lottery Heritage Fund in order to meet their requirements for substantial grant funding for the project.

In the course of the year an application was submitted seeking planning permission for the development and restoration of the former Assize Court.

The Trust in conjunction with WANHS has continued to develop and implement its Fund-Raising Strategy for the delivery of the Project. The Trust successfully achieved commitments of substantial sums from both the Rothschild Foundation and the Julia Rausing Foundation for the Project. The Trust are extremely grateful for such commitments.

As in previous years, the Trust has sought to work with Wadworth Brewery, Backhouse Housing Limited, Trevor Osborne Ltd and Wiltshire Council so that the development of their respective sites fit in with the parameters for the regeneration of the wider Devizes Wharf area which includes the Assize Court. Throughout 2024-2025 the Trust has been fully involved in the subsequent discussions and consultations.

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Report of the Trustees
for the Year ended 31st March 2025

Review of activities - Continued

DACT is pleased to record its appreciation of valuable help from an increasing range of partners and supporters, including, Historic England, the Dulverton Trust, the Pilgrim Trust, and local organisations and individuals.

Sadly, after the end of the financial year Robert Hunt-Grubbe died; he was one of the founding Trustees and a major benefactor. The trust is very grateful for his contribution.

In seeking to fulfil its aims the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular guidance on charities for the advancement of culture and heritage. The Trustees confirm therefore that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the year the Trust received substantial donations of £59,378 (2024 - £66,274) which has funded the preservation of the building and enabled the project of saving the Assize Court to begin.

The main priority each year is to make sure the building is safe and wind and weathertight. The work carried out during the financial year involved expenditure of £66,150 (2024 - £87,311). The Trust will also maintain a contingency fund in case additional emergency repair becoming necessary.

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Trustees are required to prepare for each financial year financial statements which observe the principles and methods of the Charities SORP and which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking responsible steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Peter J. O. -
Peter Troughton - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Devizes Assize Court Trust

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages five to twelve.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Pillow May Limited
The Dutch Barn
Bremhill Grove Farm
East Tytherton
Chippenham
Wiltshire
SN15 4LX

Date: 5/12/2025

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Year Ended 31.3.25 Total funds	Year Ended 31.3.24 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		59,378	-	59,378	66,274
Investment income	2	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total income		59,378	-	59,378	66,274
EXPENDITURE					
Raising funds	3	4,289	-	4,289	6,234
Charitable activities					
Devizes Assize Court Restoration		<u>66,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,150</u>	<u>87,311</u>
Total expenditure		<u>70,439</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,439</u>	<u>93,545</u>
Net income		<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>(27,271)</u>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>(27,271)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
TOTAL FUNDS BOUGHT FORWARD		<u>199,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199,139</u>	<u>226,410</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>188,078</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>188,078</u></u>	<u><u>199,139</u></u>

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	148,496	-	148,496	148,496
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank		<u>47,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,590</u>	<u>58,511</u>
		47,590	-	47,590	58,511
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(8,008)	-	(8,008)	(7,868)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>39,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,582</u>	<u>50,643</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>188,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,078</u>	<u>199,139</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>188,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,078</u>	<u>199,139</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				188,078	199,139
Restricted funds				<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>188,078</u>	<u>199,139</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 5 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr. Nicholas Elliott - Trustee

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities	Notes		
	1	(10,921)	(32,882)
Cash flows from investment activities	2	-	-
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the period		<u>(10,921)</u>	<u>(32,882)</u>
<hr/>			
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt	3		
Increase in cash in the period		<u>(10,921)</u>	<u>(32,882)</u>
Change in net debt resulting from cash flows		<u>(10,921)</u>	<u>(32,882)</u>
Movement in net debt in the period		(10,921)	(32,882)
Net debt at 1 April		<u>58,511</u>	<u>91,393</u>
Net debt at 31 March		<u>47,590</u>	<u>58,511</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOMING RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Net (outgoing)\incoming resources	(11,061)	(27,271)
Interest received	-	-
Impairment Losses	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	-	-
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>140</u>	<u>(5,611)</u>
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	<u><u>(10,921)</u></u>	<u><u>(32,882)</u></u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received	-	-
Capital expenditure and financial investment		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from investment activities	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

3. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>58,511</u>	<u>(10,921)</u>	<u>47,590</u>
Total	<u><u>58,511</u></u>	<u><u>(10,921)</u></u>	<u><u>47,590</u></u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK & Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

All income is included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Related party disclosure

There are no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

Tangible fixed assets

Capital expenditure is treated as additions to tangible fixed assets. Any profit on disposal is credited to the Income and Expenditure Account at the date of sale. Losses are provided for when it becomes clear that such losses will be substantial.

An impairment provision has been put in place over the Assize Court building as an independent valuation carried out by the trustees showed that it had a negative residual value.

No depreciation is provided on fixed assets as any such depreciation is not considered to be material.

Debtors

Debtors are amounts due to the charity for grants agreed and cleared for payment by the reporting date. Debtors are recognised at the transaction price.

Cash at bank

Cash at bank comprises cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer the settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months, after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised at the transaction price.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Deposit account interest	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
Support costs	1,479	2,381
Governance costs	<u>2,810</u>	<u>3,853</u>
	<u>4,489</u>	<u>6,234</u>

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 or year ended 31 March 2024.

5. STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year.

6. FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

£420 will be payable to Pillow May Limited in respect of the annual independent review.

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £
COST	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>148,496</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	<u>148,496</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>148,496</u>

The historic cost of the freehold property is £627,547.

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Other debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Trade creditors	-	-
Other creditors	<u>8,008</u>	<u>7,868</u>
	<u><u>8,008</u></u>	<u><u>7,868</u></u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	199,139	(11,061)	188,078
Restricted funds			
Urgent Works	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>199,139</u></u>	<u><u>(11,061)</u></u>	<u><u>188,078</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfer between funds £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	59,378	(70,439)	-	(11,061)
Restricted funds				
Urgent Works	-	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>59,378</u></u>	<u><u>(70,439)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(11,061)</u></u>

Devizes Assize Court Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Year Ended 31.3.25 £	Year Ended 31.3.24 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	59,378	66,274
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	-	-
Total incoming resources	59,378	66,274
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Raising Funds		
Support costs		
Insurance	1,460	1,455
Sundries	-	906
Fundraising consultant	-	-
Bank charges	19	20
	1,479	2,381
Governance costs		
Accountancy	1,792	1,838
Independent examination	420	472
Legal and professional fees	598	1,543
	2,810	3,853
Total Raising Funds	4,289	6,234
Charitable activities		
Building insurance	25,168	23,116
Architect and planning fees	5,586	5,446
Devizes assize court emergency works	394	3,749
Grants to institutions	35,000	55,000
	66,150	87,311
Total resources expended	70,439	93,545
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>(27,271)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements